

**Canada
Dept. of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development**

Backgrounder



BACKGROUNDER

CAPTAIN JOSEPH-ELZÉAR BERNIER - NORTH OF 60°

Dean of Arctic Explorers and Architect of Canadian Sovereignty
in the Arctic

Government
Publications

July 31, 1980 was proclaimed "Canadian Arctic Islands Centennial Commemoration Day ... from sea ... to sea ... to sea" by Governor General Edward Schreyer and the period to October 9th has been set aside to mark the centennial.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the transfer to Canada from Great Britain of the group of islands running northward into the Arctic Ocean. The British Order-in-Council was signed by Queen Victoria, July 31, 1880. The transfer took effect September 1, 1880 and was published in the Canada Gazette on October 9, 1880.

One of Canada's concerns after the transfer was that other countries might try to claim the Arctic Islands. Whalers, traders, explorers and scientists from around the world travelled through the Canadian Arctic. Thus, from 1897 the Canadian Government gave the area constant attention.

In 1906, Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier, as Commander of the expedition and Fisheries Officer, sailed on the D.G.S. Arctic to proclaim jurisdiction over the Arctic Islands. This was the first of three official voyages (and subsequent winterings) he would undertake for the Canadian Government between 1906 and 1911.

On July 1, 1909 Captain Bernier, promoter, defender and architect of Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic, made his most famous proclamation. At Winter Harbour on Melville Island he unveiled a tablet at Parry's Rock which marked the annexation of the whole Archipelago lying

north of America from 60⁰ to 140⁰ west Longitude (the Canada-Alaska boundary line) as far north as 90⁰ (the North Pole) as Canadian Territory and under Canadian jurisdiction.

Captain Bernier, born January 1, 1852 at L'Islet, Quebec, inherited the courage, resourcefulness and determination of his French-Canadian, seafaring forebears and, at 17 years of age, made his first voyage commanding his father's brigantine Saint-Joseph, bound for England from Quebec.

Although his lifelong ambition was to claim the North Pole for Canada, this was to elude him. During ten trips for the Canadian government he took possession of many islands in the Arctic Archipelago over an area of 1 348 866 km squared. These include Victoria, Ellesmere, Banks, Devon, Axel Heiberg, Melville, Prince of Wales, Somerset, Bathurst, Prince Patrick and many smaller islands. Of all the explorers sent by the Canadian government to take possession of Arctic territory, Bernier is credited with claiming the greatest number of islands. He also recovered the greatest number of documents left behind by previous expeditions.

A Toronto Star article was quoted in the House of Commons Debates February 27, 1908 by Mr. J. Taylor (Leeds):

"... Captain Bernier may not have found the Pole, but he can find an island with his eyes shut. He is the greatest island namer and claimer in the business ..."

Captain Bernier's career as Master Mariner makes a fourfold appeal - to those who love the sea; to those who wish for knowledge of the great Canadian ship-and-timber age; the growing interest in the Northwestern exit via Hudson's Bay; the fourth - the present, past and future of the vast Arctic Archipelago.

On July 31st, 1980 in addition to Governor General Schreyer proclaiming the Canadian Arctic Islands Centennial Commemoration period, the Hon. Yvon Pinard, President of the Privy Council, flew to Frobisher Bay, Northwest Territories, to read the Vice-Regal Proclamation, while at the National Museum of Man in Ottawa, Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Paul Tellier, presented a copy of the Proclamation to Museum Director, Dr. Wm. Taylor, Jr.

Other Centennial highlights include an Arctic Islands Centennial Stamp which was issued January 23, 1980 and on August 20, in Yellowknife, N.W.T., a \$100 gold coin will be launched by the Honourable Jean-Jacques Blais, Minister of Supply and Services.

The Hon. J.-Gilles Lamontagne, Minister of National Defence, has announced an operational flight across the Arctic on September 1st of Canada's new long-range patrol aircraft, the Aurora.

A symposium, "A Century of Canada's Arctic Islands - 1880-1980", organized by the Royal Society of Canada, will be held August 11-13 in Yellowknife, N.W.T. Governor General Edward Schreyer, honorary patron of the Society is the keynote speaker. His Excellency will visit five communities during six days in the Northwest Territories.

On August 14 at Cambridge Bay, the memory of Captain Joseph-Elzear Bernier will be honoured aboard his icebreaker-namesake, Canadian Coast Guard Ship J.E. Bernier. His Excellency and Mrs. Schreyer, accompanied by Commissioner of the Northwest Territories John Parker and Mrs. Parker, will board the Bernier. Governor General Schreyer will present a certified copy of the Proclamation to Commanding Officer Emile Chassé.

The CCGS J. E. Bernier is a medium-sized icebreaker - a work-horse of the Canadian Coast Guard Fleet, built by Davie Shipbuilding at Lauzon, Quebec in 1967. Since 1930, beginning in early July, Canadian Coast Guard icebreakers have conducted annual operations in support of commercial vessels in the High Arctic and Hudson Bay to ensure transportation requirements of private and federal shipping agencies are met.

The CCGS Bernier's summer mission is to install and service marine navigation aids in the Western Arctic in support of commercial shipping resource development, which includes laying buoys to guide vessels carrying freight through torturous channels. The Bernier must also support the shipping of NTCL (Northern Transportation Company Limited), a crown corporation active in the Beaufort Sea, Mackenzie River, and as far north as Banks Island - one of the many islands transferred to Canada in 1880. Other duties of the Bernier include ice breaking in the Beaufort Sea and Amundsen Gulf, oil spill monitoring, and search and rescue missions.

On completion of her summer Arctic duties, it is anticipated the Bernier will return to Quebec City via the Northwest Passage, thus circumnavigating the North American Continent for the second time. The first time was in October, 1976.

Captain Bernier's record evokes the days of the merchantmen and the romance that belongs to bold spirits who go down to the sea in ships. Admiral Richard Byrd referred to him as "The Dean of Arctic Explorers". His personal crusade for a Canadian Polar Expedition which carried him through Canada, the United States and Great Britain, brought him before the Royal Geographical Society in London, England, where he was presented with the Society's Back Grant - the most coveted award for polar exploration.

Captain Bernier's plan was to enter the polar sea through the Bering Strait and let his ship become frozen in the ice and drift slowly with the current towards the East, passing over or near the Pole and issuing into the Atlantic, after travelling approximately four years.

Other than the Quebec Geographical Society which supported Captain Bernier from the outset and introduced him to the learned societies of Europe, the most important backing came from the Royal Colonial Institute of London, in 1901. Also that year, the Royal Society of Canada endorsed the Bernier Polar Expedition. The Vancouver Board of Trade offered him \$10,000 if he would build his ship in Vancouver.

After Bernier spent years lecturing before learned bodies and the public and expended \$21,000 of his own money, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Robert Borden and the Rt. Honourable Arthur Meighen cooperated in securing a vote of \$20,000 to outfit a Canadian Polar Expedition under his command. In the spring of 1904, with five years supplies on board the D.G.S. Arctic, he was ready to sail around the Horn en route to Vancouver and the Bering Sea. Instead, the Government commissioned him to establish Mounted Police Posts in the Hudson Bay District, with Major J.D. Moodie of the Royal North-West Mounted Police as commander of the expedition, to Bernier's bitter disappointment.

History will credit Bernier with being the first to establish Canadian government controls over whaling in the Eastern Arctic, particularly the region surrounding Baffin Island. His government expeditions (1906-07, 1908-09, 1910-11) brought welcome supplies to outposts, added to the southern knowledge of the north and flew Canada's flag far and wide over the Arctic Islands. To further secure his country's sovereignty, between 1912 and 1917 Bernier established three trading posts in the region of Pond Inlet and for the next seven years completely controlled all activities in the region.

1922 was a turning point in the history of the Canadian North. The government called Captain Bernier out of retirement to command the Arctic in the Eastern Arctic Patrol. Ordered to set up and supply several RCMP posts, the Patrol marked the government's first official occupation of the Archipelago. With his 1925 voyage Captain Bernier's Arctic career ended. However, in 1927, at the age of seventy-five, he was commissioned by the Department of Railways and Canals to pilot a tug leading a convoy of barges transporting coal from Halifax to Port Burwell, destined for ships scheduled to operate in Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait the following summer.

From 1895 until his death December 26, 1934 at the age of 82 at Lévis, Quebec, this tireless sea captain who had sailed 778,375 kilometers, constantly strove to make Canadians aware of the importance of securing their country's sovereignty in the Arctic.

There is a similarity between Joseph-Elzéar Bernier and Jacques Cartier. Both wanted to find the Northwest Passage but were thwarted by the mercilessly harsh climate. As Cartier did for France and his king, Bernier took possession of numerous Arctic Islands for Canada, and in doing so, laid claim to all mineral, animal and marine resources they contained. Captain Bernier expressed Canada's sovereignty as much by declaration of possessions as by distribution of fishing and hunting permits. To him, the Canadian Arctic represented a pool of wildlife and mineral resources and establishing Canadian territorial jurisdiction in the Arctic would enable Canadians to the south to benefit from these valuable resources.

Captain Joseph-Elzéar's two grand dreams - to conquer the North Pole and to sail through the Northwest Passage, were the major factors behind his seafaring Arctic career, but predominant was his desire to establish Canada's sovereignty North of 60°.



[Backgrounder]

ROYAL SOCIETY'S YELLOWKNIFE SYMPOSIUM
MARKS CENTENARY OF TRANSFER OF ARCTIC ISLANDS TO CANADA

OTTAWA (July 31, 1980) - Governor General Edward Schreyer, Honorary Patron of the Royal Society of Canada, will be keynote speaker at the Society's three-day symposium at Yellowknife, N.W.T., marking transfer of the Arctic Islands to Canada by Great Britain one hundred years ago.

The August 11 to 13 symposium, "A Century of Canada's Arctic Islands - 1880-1980" will be hosted by Northwest Territories Commissioner John Parker. Conference Chairman is Dr. Morris Zaslow, Professor of History, University of Western Ontario. Mr. Bernard Loiselle, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Honourable John Munro, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, will be the Luncheon Speaker on Tuesday, August 12th. Mrs. Huguette Labelle, Assistant Deputy Minister of Corporate Policy, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, will be Chairman of the Wednesday Morning Session August 13th.

The Symposium's objective is to review and evaluate achievements of the past century, direct attention to the Arctic Islands, and promote national interest by helping affirm Canada's commitment to sovereignty in the Canadian North.

Distinguished Canadians will present papers on the historical, administrative, scientific, social and economic aspects of past development and future prospects of the region, with particular emphasis on the Arctic Islands. These papers will be published and available through the Royal Society of Canada.

(Symposium Program: P.T.O.)

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A CENTURY OF CANADA'S ARCTIC ISLANDS, 1880-1980

A Symposium presented by The Royal Society of Canada
at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
August 11 to 13, 1980

3. THE PROGRAM

Monday, 11 August

8:30 a.m. Opening Remarks
to
12:30 p.m. Welcome

M. Zaslow,
Commissioner
John Parker
M. Zaslow

Chairman:
Inuit Prehistory and
Archeology
Presented by:
Geographical Explorations
to 1880
coffee

P. Schledermann
Robert James

H. Wallace

Major Explorations,
1880-1940
The Whaling Era

A. Cooke
W.G. Ross
B.W. Hodgins

2:00 p.m. Administrative Agencies —
to
5:30 p.m. Police, Missionaries,
Fur Traders, 1880-1940
The Role of the Arctic
Islands in Defence
coffee

M. Zaslow

R.J. Diubaldo

The Evolution of Arctic
Ships and Shipping
Arctic Aviation

T.C. Pullen
M. Dunbar,
K.R. Greenaway

Evening Banquet — In the presence of His Excellency
the Right Honourable Edward Schreyer, C.C.,
C.M.M., C.D., Governor General of Canada and
Honorary Patron of the Society.

Tuesday, 12 August

9:30 a.m. Chairman:
to Scientific Progress
12:30 p.m. — Geographical
— Geological
coffee

O.M. Solandt

W.C. Wonders
R. Thorsteinsson,
J.W. Kerr

Scientific Progress
— Biological
— Meteorological -
Climatological

S.D. MacDonald

S. Orvig

12:30 Special Luncheon

Bernard Loiselle, M.P.

Chairman:

L.-E. Hamelin

Scientific Progress

— Ice, Snow,
Permafrost

E.R. Pounder
M.J. Dunbar

— Oceanographic
coffee

New Styles in
Administration, since
1945
The Inuit View

Frank Cserepy
Senator
Willie Adams

Problems of Territorial
Jurisdiction, since 1930

D. Pharand

7:30 p.m. Films at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage
Centre

Wednesday, 13 August

9:30 a.m. Chairman:
to Economic Development
12:30 p.m. — Oil and Gas
— Minerals and Mining
coffee

Mrs. Huguette Labelle

G.H. Jones
D.C. Findlay

Government Controls and
Environmental Concerns
The Inuit in an Era
of Change

R.J.D. Page

— Social, Medical, etc.
— Political
— A Personal Perspective

M.M.R. Freeman
P. Ittinuar
M. Freeman

2:00 p.m. Chairman:
to Arctic Canada and the
3:30 p.m. Circumpolar World
— Northern Canada
Today

M. Zaslow

— Comparisons and
Challenges
— The Arctic and
Canadian Culture

G.W. Rowley

T. Lloyd

T.H.B. Symons

Closing Remarks

M. Zaslow

4:00 p.m. Archival Open House and/or Behind the Scene
Tour at Prince of Wales Northern Heritage
Centre.

B A C K G R O U N D E R

ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA SYMPOSIUM - YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T., AUGUST 11-13, 1980

"A CENTURY OF CANADA'S ARCTIC ISLANDS -1880-1980"

SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS

Monday Morning Session - August 11th

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

An Arctic Islands retrospect of sea and air exploration during the past century. The main Canadian explorers to brave the Northwest Passage in the last 100 years were Joseph Elzéar Bernier, Captain of the "Arctic", and Henry Larsen, Captain of the "St. Roch".

Chairman: Dr. Morris Zaslow, Chairman of the Symposium.

* Inuit Prehistory and Archeology: Activities of field parties working in the Islands, importance of archeological resources, Inuit prehistory over the past 4000 years and successive waves of migrants who have occupied the region.

Archeologists Peter Schlederman, Assistant Professor of Archeology, University of Calgary and Acting Director, Arctic Institute of North America, and Dr. Robert Janes, Director of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre at Yellowknife.

* Geographical Explorations to 1880: Hugh N. Wallace, History Professor, Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax, a specialist in the history of Arctic exploration in the Nineteenth Century, will review exploration activity and mapping of the Arctic Islands.

* Major Explorations -1880-1980: Alan Cooke, Consultant, Centre of Northern Studies and Research, McGill University, is a frequent contributor on Arctic explorers and explorations, bibliographer, and compiler (with Clive Holland) of The Exploration of Northern Canada, 500 to 1920: A Chronology.

* The Whaling Era (the first commercial exploitation of the Arctic Islands): W. Gillies Ross, Professor of Geography, Bishop's University, Lennoxville, Quebec, has published several articles on the Canadian North and the recent book Whalers and Eskimos: Hudson Bay, 1860-1915.

Monday Afternoon Session - August 11th

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES

Chairman: Dr. B.W. Hodgins, Professor of History, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario.

* Police, Missionaries, Fur Traders - 1880-1940: Dr Morris Zaslow, Professor of History, University of Western Ontario, former Editor of Ontario History and the General Series of the Champlain Society; has written on varied aspects of Northern Canada and published The Opening of the Canadian North 1870-1914 and The Story of the Geological Survey of Canada, 1842-1972.

* The Role of the Arctic Islands in Defence: Dr. Richard J. Diubaldo, Associate Professor of History, Concordia University, Montreal, author of Stefansson and the Canadian Arctic and a number of articles on Canadian-American relations in the North.

* The Evolution of Arctic Ships and Shipping: Arctic Navigation

Consultant, Captain Thomas C. Pullen who began his Arctic career as Captain of the H.M.C.S. Labrador, has also sailed in the Manhattan as adviser on ice navigation. During the past century, he and his famous forebears, Captain W.J.S. Pullen and Captain T.C. Pullen have contributed to maritime technology advances through the sail age to nuclear icebreakers and submarines. Several sites in the Arctic honour the Pullen family, among them an island, a strait and a mountain.

* Arctic Aviation: will be jointly addressed by Brigadier General Keith R. Greenaway and Moira Dunbar, who have served with the Defence Research Board of Canada and co-authored Arctic Canada from the Air. Miss Dunbar, renowned geographer, is an authority on sea ice and Arctic history. Brigadier General Greenaway, a former Department of Indian and Northern Affairs science adviser, is internationally recognized for his pioneering work in the Arctic air navigation.

Tuesday Morning Session - August 12th

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS

Chairman: Dr. O. M. Solandt, well-known scientist and administrator, Chairman of the Science Advisory Board of the Northwest Territories, Chairman of the Defence Research Board during the war and subsequently first Chairman of the Science Council of Canada.

* Geographical: The revolution in geographical mapping brought about by instrumentation and the computer will be revealed by William C. Wonders, Professor and Chairman, Department of Geography and Chairman of the Boreal Institute, University of Alberta, author of numerous articles on the

geography of northern Canada and editor of Canada's Changing North, and The Arctic Circle: Aspects of the North from the Circumpolar Nations.

* Geological: Dr. Ray Thorsteinsson and Dr. J. William Kerr, research geologists of the Institute of Sedimentary and Petroleum Geology, Geological Survey of Canada, who have worked many years in the Arctic Islands and published important memoirs and articles, with special reference to oil and gas potential.

* Biological: Scientific progress in the last hundred years will be the subject of Stewart D. MacDonald, Curator, Ethology Section, National Museum of Natural Sciences. A leading Canadian ornithologist and authority on Arctic wildlife, Dr. MacDonald has operated and directed the Museum's Research Station on Bathurst Island from 1968 until the present.

* Meteorological - Climatological: Dr. Svenn Orvig, Professor of Meteorology and Dean, Faculty of Science, McGill University, will deal with Canada's heavy burden of responsibility for weather research in the North.

Tuesday Afternoon Session - August 12th

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS

Chairman: Louis-Edmond Hamelin, Rector of the Université du Québec à Trois Rivières, Québec. M. Hamelin was formerly head of the Centre d'Etudes Nordiques at Laval University and was an appointed member of the Northwest Territories Council.

* Ice, Snow, Permafrost: Dr. Elton R. Pounder, Professor of Physics at McGill University a pioneer in sea ice physics and founder of the continuing program, the McGill Ice Research Project.

* Oceanographic: Dr. Maxwell J. Dunbar, Professor of Zoology at McGill University and founder of the McGill Marine Sciences Centre, who has worked extensively on marine biology in Canadian and Greenland waters, and on Arctic ecology. Author of Ecological Development in Polar Regions and Environment and Good Sense, Professor Dunbar will focus on the vital importance of Arctic oceanography and recommend increased research in the north.

* New Styles in Administration, since 1945: Frank Cserepy, Regional Superintendent of Local Government (Baffin Region) from Frobisher Bay, N.W.T. since 1976, who has worked in community development in Toronto, Calgary and throughout Manitoba.

* The Inuit View: Senator Willie Adams, the first Inuk elected to the Northwest Territories Council, who became Canada's first Inuk parliamentarian when called to the Senate in 1977, will review changes in lifestyle of his people since government entered their lives in 1950 - with particular reference to education and employment.

* Problems of Territorial Jurisdiction, since 1930: Donat Pharand, Professor of International Law, University of Ottawa will refer to other claims on the Arctic Islands and questions on the basis of Canadian sovereignty. He is author of numerous articles on maritime law as it related to Northern Canada, and the book The Law of the Sea in the Arctic with Special Reference to Canada.

Wednesday Morning Session - August 13th

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairman: Mrs. Huguette Labelle, Assistant Deputy Minister of Corporate Policy, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, and previously Director General, Policy Research and Evaluation Division. She has served as an international consultant in health care planning and health science education.

* Oil and Gas: Dr. Gordon H. Jones, Executive Director of Arctic Petroleum Operator's Association, will report on the venturesome quest for oil and gas, and the energy potential of the Arctic. Editor of Eastern Offshore News, he has been a participant in Arctic Islands oil exploration and drilling operations since their inception.

* Minerals and Mining: Dr. D. C. Findlay, geologist at the Geological Survey of Canada, widely experienced in economic geology of mineral deposits who has recently been involved in Arctic resource evaluation will report on the potential for undiscovered mineral resources in parts of the explored parts of the Arctic archipelago.

* Government Controls and Environmental Concerns: Dr. Robert J.D. Page, Associate Professor of History and Co-ordinator of Environmental Resources Studies Program at Trent University will describe problems of boundaries jurisdiction, maintenance of environmental quality in the face of conflict and making management decisions about land use in a fragile environment.

* The Inuit in an Era of Change:

- Social, Medical, etc.: Dr. Milton M. R. Freeman, Professor of Anthropology at McMaster University Hamilton and currently Senior Science Adviser, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs who has written on Inuit society and ecology and edited Intermediate Adaptation in Newfoundland and the Arctic, A Strategy of Social and Economic Development . From the perspective of the

anthropologist, Dr. Freeman will speak of the changes which have occurred in the Inuit society during the past 100 years and offer prognoses as to their future.

- Political: Peter Ittinuar, M.P., of Rankin Inlet, Canada's first Inuk Member of Parliament, an aspiring and diligent questioner in the House of Commons on behalf of the Inuit who received the right to vote as recently as 1960. Previously, he worked with Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, was elected to Parliament in 1979 and re-elected in 1980. NDP member for the new Northwest Territories riding of Nunatsiag, the nation's largest covering 2,230,000 square kilometres and nearly everything north of the tree line.

- A Personal Perspective: Minnie Aodla Freeman, renowned Inuk writer, playwright, poet and translator, and author of Life Among the Quallunaat.

Wednesday Afternoon Session, August 13th

ARCTIC CANADA AND THE CIRCUMPOLAR WORLD

Chairman: Dr. Morris Zaslow, Professor of History, University of Western, Ontario.

* Northern Canada Today: Dr. Graham W. Rowley, for many years Scientific Advisor to the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, who has done important work on the Dorset Eskimo Culture and is co-author of The Circumpolar North. He will express his concern about the great gap existing between today's north and the normal economic restraints of the modern world - particularly as it affects the Inuit.

* Comparisons and Challenges: A recommendation that Canada again take the lead in internationalizing polar science will be made by Dr. Trevor Lloyd, Emeritus Professor of Geography, McGill University, and founder and executive director of the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies. Involved in many Arctic, geographic and scientific organizations over the past 40 years and author of numerous articles on Arctic geography, science and international aspects, Dr. Lloyd will review activities in the North polar regions in 1880, including the first ships to go through the Northwest Passage.

* The Arctic and Canadian Culture: Professor Thomas H. B. Symons, historian and founding President of Trent University, and Chairman of the Commission on Canadian Studies. Professor Symons is currently Vanier Professor at Trent University and Vice President of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

CLOSING REMARKS: Dr. Morris Zaslow, Conference Chairman

Please see attached:
The Royal Society of Canada

Ref: Robbin Frazer
(613) 997-1211



The Royal Society of Canada *La Société Royale du Canada*

341 Wellington Ottawa K1P 0J4

Telephone: (613) 992-3468

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

Was founded one year after the transfer
of the Arctic Islands to Canada from Britain.

The Society owes its origin mainly to the imagination and initiative of the Marquess of Lorne (later 9th Duke of Argyll), who was Governor General of Canada from 1878 to 1883. With his encouragement, a group of scholars met in Montreal in December 1881 to consider forming "A Society for the promotion of Literature and Science within the Dominion". On May 25, 1882 Lord Lorne welcomed members of the Society to the Senate Chamber in the Parliament Buildings and delivered the Inaugural Address.

In 1883, many Canadians thought - and said - that the formation of a "learned" society of this sort in their country was premature. An Ottawa newspaper, commenting on the first annual meeting, observed, "Scarcely had we felled the trees of the forest before we are asked to make flower beds among the stumps." Despite the predictions the Society would be short-lived, it has continued to exist and, in an unostentatious manner, extended its influence and activities on behalf of science and the liberal arts in Canada.

Among the charter members of 1882 were many who are still remembered as Canadian giants, and since 1882 a high proportion of the persons distinguished for learning and research in the Arts and Sciences in Canada have been Fellows of the Society.

Now, near the end of its first Century, the Royal Society of Canada occupies an established place in the country's cultural life and can claim a record of valuable contributions to Canada.

Executive Secretary: E.H. Pierre Garneau
Telephone: 992-3468



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION - IBP ECOLOGICAL SITES NORTH OF 60°

The International Biological Program (IBP) was a co-operative effort of the International Council of Scientific Unions in which some 58 nations participated including Canada.

These Ecological Sites were intended to serve one or more of the following purposes:

- 1) to preserve representative examples of significant natural ecosystems for comparison with those managed by man;
- 2) to provide educational and research areas for the scientific study of successional trends, evolution of species, inter and intra species relationships, and the balancing forces in relatively undisturbed ecosystems;
- 3) to provide educational and research areas for the scientific study of other aspects of the natural environment such as meteorological, geomorphological and pedological processes;
- 4) to provide educational and research areas for the scientific study of recovery processes in ecosystems that have been modified by man;
- 5) to serve as a natural gene pool for the preservation of species of plants and animals.

As a result of IBP in Canada, Panels 9 (Tundra) and 10 (Boreal Forest) have together identified a total of 151 possible sites North of 60° for potential designation as ecological sites. Brief descriptions of the sites are contained in two reports - Ecological Sites in Northern Canada (Panel 9) and IBP Ecological Sites in Sub-Arctic Canada (Panel 10).

Principle purpose of the panels in identifying sites was to seek recognition of the intrinsic biological values, and have them protected by appropriate legislation and administrative framework.

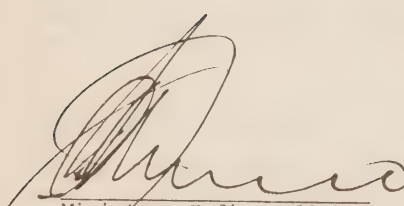
In January 1975, then Minister of Northern Affairs Judd Buchanan gave approval-in-principle to the concept of ecological sites and established an interdepartmental working group to review the proposals. This group includes representatives of Northern Affairs, Environment Canada, Energy, Mines and Resources, Fisheries and Oceans, and territorial governments.

The working group reviews each submission, evaluates biological values, consults with industry, community organizations and other parties having interests in the areas, places appropriate recommendations before the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs.

The Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and COPE have indicated a willingness to discuss the establishment of ecological sites whereas the Indian organizations and Metis Association of the NWT do not want to deal with them until land claims have been settled.

I have received the final report and recommendations of the Inter-departmental Working Group on IBP Ecological Sites and reviewed them in consultation with Departmental and other Federal Government Officials. As a result, I have decided that:

1. the formal establishment and long-term protection of the Polar Bear Pass ecological site be effected by withdrawal from disposal followed by the transfer of the surface of the land to the Minister of Environment for administration under the Canada Wildlife Act as a National Wildlife Area and subject to retransfer to the Minister DIAND should the area be required to satisfy a land claims settlement;
2. protection of the ecological integrity of the site in an undisturbed condition and the encouragement of scientific research be recognized as the primary purpose in formal establishment of the site;
3. the actual administration of the site be based on the recommendations of an advisory committee on site management, which will take into consideration the set of management guidelines developed by the Working Group, in the preparation of regulations or terms and conditions;
4. existing non-renewable resource rights (composed of oil and gas permits) be honoured subject to such terms and conditions as may be required by the regulatory authority, but that no operations be allowed in the area defined as wetlands and associated critical wildlife habitat;
5. wildlife harvesting by the Inuit of Resolute Bay be permitted; in the case of the caribou, harvesting shall begin only when the population has returned to a level capable of sustaining such harvesting as determined by the Government of the Northwest Territories.



Minister, Indian Affairs
and Northern Development

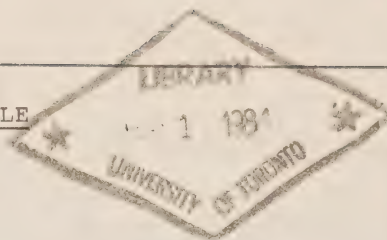


Date



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YUKON INDIAN CLAIM
AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE

GENERAL SUMMARY



Financial Compensation

Some details of the proposed financial compensation package were released in December 1982.

The agreement provides for nearly \$190 million to be paid to the beneficiaries. Once final settlement is reached, \$5 million would be paid for settlement implementation and related training purposes. Over the following 20 years, the beneficiaries would receive another \$130 million in financial compensation for aboriginal title and a further \$53.69 million in return for the termination of existing government programs for status Indians in Yukon; these payments would reach an expected value of \$540 million after inflation is taken into account.

To assist Yukon Indians in planning and developing programs and economic opportunities, the federal government will grant them a \$15 million interest-free advance against their settlement compensation. This money would be provided in two stages -- \$10 million on signing of the Agreement in Principle and \$5 million on execution of a Final Agreement.

Lands

Yukon Indians would receive title in fee simple, with subsurface rights, to something over 20 000 square kilometres of land in Yukon on final settlement of their claim; the exact terms of the subsurface provision are yet to be finalized by the three parties. Land selections have been completed for 10 of the 12 bands.

Specific details, including locations, cannot be released until land selections are complete and the agreement in principle has been ratified.

Government Programs

Of the total financial compensation, \$53.69 million is intended as compensation for the termination of existing government programs for status Indians in Yukon. Indians in Yukon will be fully eligible for universal programs provided by the governments of Yukon and Canada. In addition, special measures will apply in the areas of education, health, social services and justice.

Land Use Planning and Environmental Assessment

Yukon Indian participation in land use planning and environmental assessment in Yukon was worked out in a proposed sub-agreement announced in May 1982.

Under the terms of this agreement, Yukon Indians would be guaranteed a minimum of 25 per cent membership on boards, committees or commissions created to assist or advise government in land and water management in Yukon.

Hunting

Under the terms of an agreement announced in November 1981, status Indians in Yukon would give up their existing unlimited hunting rights in exchange for the right of all beneficiaries to 50 per cent of the annual allowable quotas for moose and caribou in Yukon. They would also participate on a 50/50 basis with the Government of Yukon on a territorial Wildlife Management Board.

Hunting laws and regulations would apply to natives and non-natives alike.

Fishing and Trapping Rights

The proposed agreement on fishing and trapping was announced in December 1981.

Under this agreement, Yukon Indians would continue to take fish for food at current levels. Sport fishing would take precedence over commercial fisheries. Where fish populations are considered to be sufficient for commercial fishing, the agreement calls for a limited entry system that would assist Yukon Indians to acquire commercial licences. Fish management and licensing would continue to be a federal responsibility, but the beneficiaries would be part of a consultation process.

The agreement would also grant trapping rights in perpetuity to Yukon Indians at approximately current levels, while protecting the rights of non-natives to continue trapping. The beneficiaries would be granted rights of first refusal to purchase up to 70 per cent of traplines in Yukon.

Finality

In response to the expressed concerns of CYI and other native groups, Cabinet also reviewed the existing federal policy that requires the use of the wording "extinguishment of aboriginal rights" in all comprehensive land claims settlements. As a result of that review, Cabinet has agreed to consider alternative wording to the use of the word "extinguishment", which may be negotiated with claimant groups. However, the principle of finality of settlement must be maintained.



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes
et du Nord Canada

Background/Documentation

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SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENT: NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Natural Resource Development Subsidiary Agreement, costed at approximately \$4 million over four years, was designed to ensure that northern residents benefit from non-renewable resource development and to lessen the territories' dependence on the southern based economy by increasing the use of existing renewable resources such as lumber, fish, fur and agricultural land. While there are a number of federal and territorial programs related to these areas, few provide the type of assistance required to determine the feasibility of project proposals or the means to get them started and supported until their economic viability can be determined.

This subsidiary agreement will focus on development of renewable and non-renewable resources. Potential initiatives include: test fishery projects for determining the commercial viability of fishing in promising areas; planning studies to determine the economic feasibility of developing and expanding the forest and lumber industry; and possible assistance to Hunters and Trappers Associations or community organizations to investigate opportunities for fur processing.



SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENT: DOMESTIC MARKET DEVELOPMENT

The Domestic Market Development Subsidiary Agreement, costed at approximately \$11.5 million over four years, will realize development opportunities that would otherwise be lost due to the lack of capital formation, to provide the assistance required to establish community based economic initiatives as well as to capitalize on tourism potential. There are a number of programs, both federal and territorial which are related to these areas but there are gaps which the new programs are designed to fill. Given the very low level of economic activity in most communities in the territories, as well as the high costs, there is a high demand for the types of assistance envisaged.

This subsidiary agreement will focus on business assistance, tourism development, community development, and intersettlement trade. Potential initiatives include: a pilot project to develop procedures for the collection, storage, freight, and retailing of native foods for purposes of intersettlement trade; assistance to a community to hire an economic planner to advise on development opportunities and assist in their implementation; and assistance to travel-industry associations in the development of attractions and events to encourage tourism in the North.



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- a) the legal status of Band Governments;
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- d) the financial transfer, control and accounting mechanisms in place between bands and the Government of Canada;
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- f) the accountability to Parliament of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for the monies expended by or on behalf of Indian bands;
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- 1) federal expenditures and mechanisms for their transfer to Indians
- 2) the First Nations and the Crown, a study of trust relationships
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The committee's report was tabled in the House of Commons on November 3, 1983. It contains fifty-eight recommendations, ranging over the broad mandate. Its first and most general recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the federal government establish a new relationship with Indian First Nations and that an essential element of this relationship be recognition of Indian self-government.

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RESPONSE OF GOVERNMENT

Under new House rules, the government is required to respond to committee reports within one hundred and twenty days. The response to the report of the Special Committee on Indian Self-Government was tabled in Parliament March 5, 1984.



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SUMMARY OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT FOR THE SETTLEMENT

OF THE

INUVIALUIT LAND RIGHTS CLAIM

There are approximately 2,500 Inuvialuit in the Western Arctic living in the six settlements of Sachs Harbour, Holman Island, Paulatuk, Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik and Aklavik.

GOALS OF THE SETTLEMENT

The Agreement recognizes that the three basic goals of the Inuvialuit Land Rights Settlement are: to preserve the culture and values of the Inuvialuit within a changing northern society; to enable them to be equal and meaningful participants in both the northern and national economy and society; and, to protect and preserve the Arctic wildlife, environment and biological productivity.

The Final Agreement will not prejudice the rights of the Inuvialuit as Canadian citizens nor as aboriginal people within the Constitution, and they shall continue to be eligible for all the rights and benefits received by all other citizens and native peoples (including Federal and Territorial programs), and those deriving from the Constitution applicable to native citizens.

The rights and benefits which the Inuvialuit will receive as a result of the Settlement, in consideration of their agreeing to extinguish their interests based upon traditional use and occupancy, will include lands; financial compensation; wildlife harvesting rights; wildlife and habitat protection measures; participation in land use and wildlife management; and economic and social development measures.

The Settlement of Inuvialuit Land Rights is without prejudice to the aboriginal rights of other native peoples within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and the negotiation of their own land claims in respect of their rights.

ELIGIBILITY

A beneficiary of the Settlement must be a Canadian citizen and;

1. on the official voters list used for approving the Final Agreement; or,

2. of Inuvialuit ancestry and,

- (a) born in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region or Inuvik, or,
- (b) a resident of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region or Inuvik for a total of at least ten years, or,
- (c) if under ten years of age, ordinarily resident in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region or Inuvik

A person may also be eligible if he or she:

- 3. has Inuvialuit ancestry and is accepted by an Inuvialuit community corporation as a member; or,
- 4. is an adopted child of a beneficiary.

Descendants of beneficiaries are also eligible to participate in the Settlement.

A person may be enrolled in only one claim settlement in Canada. However, individuals who qualify for more than one settlement may choose which and, if enrolled in the Inuvialuit Settlement, may, within ten years, transfer to another settlement for which they qualify.

ENROLMENT

There will be Enrolment Committees in each Inuvialuit community which will prepare a list of potential beneficiaries. An Enrolment Authority comprising two representatives from COPE and one from the Federal Government will enroll the beneficiaries and will publish an official enrolment list within three months after the Settlement Legislation comes into force. Any disputes over enrolment will be referred to the arbitration process described in the Final Agreement.

INUVIALUIT CORPORATIONS

Inuvialuit Corporations will be created to receive and manage the Settlement benefits. These will consist of an Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, an Inuvialuit Investment Corporation, an Inuvialuit Development Corporation, and an Inuvialuit Land Corporation. In addition, there will be an Inuvialuit Land Administration to manage Inuvialuit lands and an Inuvialuit Trust to manage the financial distributions to individual Inuvialuit.

Each Inuvialuit community will have a community corporation. The Inuvialuit in those communities will control the above mentioned

corporations. The Inuvialuit will decide upon any restrictions on distributions that are necessary to protect the financial compensation for the benefit of future Inuvialuit. All Inuvialuit 18 years and over will receive non-transferable shares in the Trust and will thereby share equally in the distributed benefits of the Settlement.

LANDS

From within the 435,000 square kilometre area traditionally used by the Inuvialuit, they shall receive title to certain lands. The Settlement provides surface and subsurface title to approximately 1,800 square kilometres of land (referred to as 7(1)(a) lands) adjacent to each of the six Inuvialuit communities, as well as 2 000 square kilometres in Cape Bathurst, being a protected, no development area. The Inuvialuit will also receive title to 78 000 square kilometres (referred to as 7(1)(b) lands) within their traditional lands, which excludes oil, gas and minerals, but includes sand and gravel.

The Inuvialuit, through their Land Corporation, will hold the title to these lands but that ownership will be subject to existing alienations, which means that, although the Inuvialuit own the land, they must honour existing rights, such as leases. Where the Inuvialuit own the subsurface under these lands they will receive the proceeds from any development thereon. The lands selected do not include the actual community sites, the size of which varies from one-and-a-half to five square kilometres.

LAND SELECTION

The Inuvialuit have selected their lands according to certain criteria - lands which are important because of biological productivity or traditional hunting, trapping and fishing; lands which offer economic opportunities, such as tourism; areas which are important because of wildlife production; or historic Inuvialuit sites and burial grounds. Lands were not selected which contained proven oil or gas reserves, lands which are privately owned, or lands used for public works.

On Inuvialuit lands where there are existing rights or where Inuvialuit do not own the subsurface, access for development of the subsurface resources is guaranteed. The Inuvialuit, however, will have the right to negotiate "participation agreements" with the would be developers which, in addition to rents for the use of the surface, could also include special arrangements such as training and employment, and other participatory benefits. On 7(1)(b) lands in the Husky Lakes area, being an area of special wildlife interest, the Inuvialuit will

participate in setting acceptable environmental standards for development and will be consulted when the Government considers issuing new oil and gas permits on Crown reserves.

Until such time as there are general laws passed dealing with access and trespass on private lands in the N.W.T., specific provision have been made to ensure rights of passage for individuals, government agents requiring access to carry out governmental responsibilities, and for industry requiring access across Inuvialuit land to reach Crown land. Guarantees are provided that this access cannot be abused or interfere with Inuvialuit use of their lands.

Provisions have also been made to ensure that sand and gravel on Inuvialuit lands are made available for community use at reasonable prices.

WATER

On 7(1)(a) and 7(1)(b) lands, the Inuvialuit will receive ownership to the beds of lakes, rivers and water bodies, subject to a 100-foot access strip around the seacoast and shorelines of navigable waters for travel, recreation and emergency purposes. In all cases, the Crown will own the water and have the right to control the water and water beds in order to manage fish and migratory birds, for carrying out any work needed for transportation and navigation purposes, and for the protection of community water supplies.

LAND USE PLANNING

The Northern Affairs branch of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has been working to establish Land Use Planning Commissions, one for the N.W.T. and one for the Yukon. Two sub-groups comprised of equal numbers of native and Government representatives, will be established to coordinate Land Use Planning for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING AND REVIEW / WILDLIFE COMPENSATION

All significant development activities in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region will be subject to an environmental screening and review process which will recommend whether or not the activity can safely take place and, if so, under what terms and conditions. In addition, all development activities will be subject to the wildlife compensation provisions which will provide compensation to affected Inuvialuit harvesters for losses suffered, in addition to providing measures for

restoration of the wildlife and habitat so future harvesting opportunities can be maintained.

YUKON NORTH SLOPE

The entire area north of the watershed is an area receiving special protection in order to maintain the wildlife, habitat and native harvesting. In the area west of the Babbage River, a national park will be established in which no development will be permitted. Herschel Island will fall under a similar protective regime managed by the Yukon Government as a Territorial Park. The area east of the Babbage will be subject to the land use planning process and controlled development may be permitted. Any development proposals would be screened and, if necessary, will be reviewed publicly to seek to ensure that the wildlife habitat and harvesting interests in the area would not be significantly damaged. Any development would be carefully controlled and permitted only if a public necessity. Stokes Point and Pauline Cove are exceptions where certain developments could take place under strict terms and conditions.

LAWS AND OTHER MATTERS

Laws of general application to private property will apply to all Inuvialuit lands. The Government will continue to regulate the safety of any development activities, and will be responsible for environmental management. Inuvialuit lands will remain subject to easements and rights of way which existed as of July 13, 1978. Inuvialuit lands cannot be sold except to other Inuvialuit or to the Crown.

In the event Inuvialuit lands are needed for public purposes, they can be so acquired with the approval of Cabinet or, in a few cases, such as for municipal needs and roads, land can be acquired without going to Cabinet. In all cases, the government must then offer suitable alternative lands if possible and, as a last resort only, financial compensation which will take into account the value of the land for fishing, hunting and trapping.

Inuvialuit lands will be exempt from property tax but improvements, as well as proceeds from development of Inuvialuit lands, will be taxable according to the laws of general application.

WILDLIFE HARVESTING RIGHTS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The Final Agreement sets out certain Inuvialuit harvesting rights for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, including the exclusive right to harvest game on Inuvialuit lands, and to harvest muskox and furbearers, including black, grizzly and polar bears, throughout the NWT Settlement area. They would also have a preferential right to harvest other species for subsistence purposes in this area.

In the North Slope area, the Inuvialuit will have exclusive harvesting right to all game in the Park and Herschel Island. In the eastern portion, the Inuvialuit will have exclusive rights to trap and hunt polar bears, and the preferential right to harvest all other wildlife, subject always to conservation measures.

Other native peoples will continue to have traditional harvesting rights. Bilateral agreements concerning these rights and other matters have recently been concluded with the Dene/Metis of the NWT and the Council for Yukon Indians. As well, anyone with a registered trapline in the area of the Mackenzie Delta, and their descendants who continue to trap in the Western Arctic Region, or anyone operating registered traplines, will not be affected.

In addition to receiving certain hunting rights, the Inuvialuit will participate in the overall management of wildlife in the Western Arctic Region through advisory bodies such as the Wildlife Management Councils, a Game Council and local Hunters and Trappers Committees, as well as the Research Advisory Council.

FINANCIAL COMPENSATION AND ECONOMIC MEASURES

The financial compensation described in this Agreement has a present value of \$45 million (1977 dollars). A series of payments will be made annually from 1984 to 1997. No tax will be levied on these capital payments, although all other earnings of the Inuvialuit corporations will be subject to the tax laws of general application.

The Agreement includes certain socio-economic measures to help the Inuvialuit achieve stable economic self-reliance and build a solid economic base. These commitments consist of general measures to give priority to Inuvialuit products, resources, employment, and services, the best efforts of Government to award contracts to Inuvialuit and to provide an economic enhancement fund of \$10 million to assist developing Inuvialuit industries and businesses.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

To help meet the problems of social transition faced by the Inuvialuit, there will be a Social Development Fund of \$7.5 million, to be managed by a trustee chosen by the Inuvialuit. Utilizing the Inuvialuit perspective, language and customs, the Fund will assist in solving social concerns such as the problems of elders, language, housing, health and welfare, and the maintenance of traditional pursuits. It would also advise government on programs concerning such matters as alcohol, dental care and nutrition, as well as initiate and develop special education programs. Each community will be involved in developing the various programs, which will also be managed by the Inuvialuit.

ARBITRATION

There are several areas identified in the Agreement where specific provision is made for arbitration in the event of disputes, such as expropriation, participation agreements and wildlife compensation. A general arbitration procedure is detailed in the Agreement for resolving these and any other disputes that may arise out of the Settlement.

APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE FINAL AGREEMENT

Canada and COPE have an agreed process for seeking the necessary approvals for the Final Agreement. The government has approved the Agreement for signing by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on behalf of Canada, subject to the Inuvialuit approving the Agreement and authorizing COPE to sign on their behalf. The process by which the Inuvialuit approve the Agreement involves provision of information and review of the document, and concludes with a vote by all eligible Inuvialuit.



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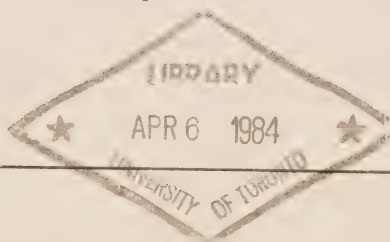
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COMMUNITY PROFILES: Western Arctic Region

AKLAVIK

Aklavik means "place of the barren land grizzly bear" in the language of the Inuvialuit.

This was where the Inuvialuit and the Loucheux Dene traditionally met and it became a trading post in 1910. Today the community's economy is based largely on trapping, hunting, fishing, transportation, oil and gas exploration and tourism.

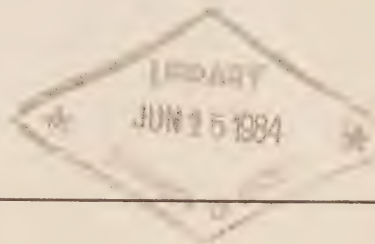
Aklavik is located at the edge of the treeline, on the Peel Channel of the Mackenzie River Delta near the mouth of the river. It is home to approximately 800, of whom the majority are Inuvialuit and Dene.

HOLMAN ISLAND
(Uluqsaktuug)

The community of Holman Island is located on the western side of Victoria Island, the ancestral homeland of the Copper Inuit. A Hudson's Bay Company post was established in Holman in 1940.

Printmaking is a major source of the community's income and Holman artists such as Helen Kalvak have won acclaim around the world for their work.

Holman Island is still a mainly Inuvialuit community, with a total population of approximately 350.



INUVIK

Inuvik is located in a traditional Inuvialuit and Dene hunting and fishing area. However, construction of the townsite did not start until 1955. A plaque commemorating the project describes it with these words:

"This was the first community north of the Arctic Circle built to provide the normal facilities of a Canadian town. It was designed not only as a base for development and administration but as a centre to bring education, medical care and new opportunity to the people of the western Arctic."

With a population of 2 900, mostly non-native, Inuvik continues to be the administrative and communications centre for the western Arctic and lower Mackenzie River area, and serves as regional headquarters for the Government of the Northwest Territories. Since the first oil well was drilled in the area in 1965, much of the town's economy has been centred on oil and gas exploration. It has also become the regional fur trading centre for the Mackenzie Delta.

Inuvik is situated in the Mackenzie Delta, on a flat wooded plateau within the northernmost reaches of the treeline east of the Richardson Mountains.

PAULATUK

Paulatuk's name comes from the Inuktitut term for "soot of coal". The Inuvialuit traditionally used the coal found in the region for heating.

The Inuvialuit from the Paulatuk area maintained the Thule whale-hunting culture, complete with large permanent villages and elaborate social gatherings, until well into the nineteenth century. The first trading post in Paulatuk was established in 1935.

Paulatuk's population of approximately 200 is entirely Inuvialuit. The community's major economic activities are hunting, fishing, sealing, trapping, handicrafts and tourism.

SACHS HARBOUR

Sachs Harbour lies on the north side of the Sachs River on southwestern Banks Island, the most westerly of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. The community and the river were named after the ship Mary Sachs, of the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913.

Thule house ruins in several places on Banks Island indicate that Inuit were living on the island about 500 years ago. Inuit continued to visit the area through the years, but permanent occupation did not begin again until 1929, when several Inuit families moved there from the Mackenzie Delta.

Approximately 200 people, the majority Inuvialuit, live in Sachs Harbour. They are substantially self-sufficient, with an economy based on trapping, hunting, fishing and tourism.

TUKTOYAKTUK

Tuktoyaktuk is an anglicized form of the community's Inuvialuit place-name, which means "resembling a caribou"; reefs shaped like caribou are sometimes seen at low tide. The community is located north of the treeline on the Beaufort Sea east of the Mackenzie Delta.

The area was traditionally the home of the whale-hunting Karngmalit Inuit. Modern Inuvialuit moved into the area from Herschel Island in 1928, and by 1934 the community was established as the port of choice for the area.

With a population of approximately 800, mainly Inuvialuit, Tuktoyaktuk is now the sea-edge base for oil and gas exploration in the Beaufort Sea. As such, its economy revolves around oil and gas activities, transportation and communications; nevertheless, trapping and whaling remain important to the Inuvialuit residents.

Source: NWT Data Book 1982-83. Outcrop. Yellowknife. 1983.



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THE INDIANS OF CONNE RIVER, NEWFOUNDLAND

The Micmacs of Conne River have wanted to be recognized as status Indians since 1976. There are approximately 580 Micmacs living at Conne River, constituting 95% of that community's total population. The native population in the province of Newfoundland is small, representing about one-half of one per cent of the province's total population.

For unique historical reasons, the federal government has assumed special responsibilities for the native people in Newfoundland and has discharged these in a manner which is not matched anywhere else in Canada.

In the pre-Confederation era, no treaties were signed or reserves established for the original inhabitants. When Newfoundland joined Confederation in 1949, there were no specific provisions which recognized the special status of the aboriginal peoples in the new province. It has been the position of successive governments of Newfoundland not to differentiate between native and non-native citizens.

Indians and Inuit are fully entitled to share in all provincial programs and services available to all Newfoundlanders and they have full access to federal benefits available to all Canadians.

During the 1970s people who were of total or partial Indian ancestry in several Newfoundland settlements became more united and more committed to obtaining direct access to federal funding already available to all other status Indians in Canada by virtue of the Constitution Act 1867, section 91(24) and the Indian Act.

By 1973, the Conne River community began receiving assistance through federal-provincial arrangements. Since 1976 the community has received block funding on an annual basis enabling it to be self-governing in its financial affairs. The community is responsible for setting its own priorities, designing, implementing and administering programs and services.

The process to start registration of the community's residents of Indian ancestry began in 1976 and has been supported by four federal Ministers of Indian Affairs over the past seven years.

The Assembly of First Nations, representing Canada's status Indians, endorsed the principle of registering the residents of Micmac Indian ancestry at Conne River in a letter to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development dated February 21, 1983.

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CANADA-NEWFOUNDLAND-NATIVE PEOPLES AGREEMENTS

Since 1951 the federal government has entered into a series of agreements with Newfoundland to supply basic services to native people there. The residents of Conne River have been the recipients of federal funds notwithstanding their technical legal position, up to today, as non-status Indians living off-reserve.

The original informal agreement related to health care and medical services. It evolved gradually into several agreements covering a number of capital projects, and over time for other various programs and services. In 1981, individual formal agreements were negotiated for Newfoundland and Labrador which provided for cost-sharing arrangements for certain programs delivered in most cases by the province. The province is also charged with the administration of the Agreements and the funds thereunder.

These two formal agreements, jointly negotiated by representatives of the federal and provincial governments and native associations and communities were signed July 4, 1981 in Newfoundland by the Minister of Indian Affairs, the Hon. John C. Munro. Totalling \$43.9 million over a five-year period, the two agreements support the province's native peoples in achieving their cultural, social and economic aspirations.

The two agreements are:

- The Canada-Newfoundland-Conne River Agreement which provides for the expenditure of \$5.05 million (federal share \$3.8 million);
- The Canada-Newfoundland-Labrador Agreement providing for \$38.8 million (federal share \$9.1 million).

These funding agreements provide for community services and development, housing and cultural education.

A Coordinating Committee has been established for both Agreements with Federal/Provincial/Native representation. The Committee determines community priorities and budgets for expenditure of funds and for evaluating community benefits.

LITIGATION

The Chief and Councillors of Conne River, Newfoundland filed suit in the federal court on July 13, 1982 claiming that some of the members of the community at Conne River constitute a "band" and that they reside on a "reserve" within the meaning of the Indian Act.

They also claimed to be entitled to services on an equal basis with those enjoyed by other registered Indians in other parts of Canada as a consequence of the special relationship between the Government of Canada and the Indians.

The case that is being made by some members of the Conne River community is that:

- Terms of the Union with Canada in 1949 did not alter the federal responsibility for Indians and lands reserved for Indians under section 91(24) of the Constitution Act 1867 and the Indian Act.
- A traditional reserve of approximately 2.6 km² (one square mile) was set aside by the British colonial government in 1870 for the residents at Conne River, and that it should have fallen under federal jurisdiction when Newfoundland joined Confederation.
- The Government of Canada has for more than 30 years recognized Indians in the province and responsibility for them through numerous agreements with the province.

